

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3868

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15489

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, ASEC, PINT, UR

SUBJECT: PENTECOSTALS IN EMBASSY

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 15174, (B) MOSCOW 15024

1. CONSOFFS ON JULY 3 AGAIN DISCUSSED PENTECOSTALS SITUATION WITH THEIR LEADER PYOTR VASHCHENKO. VASHCHENKO STRESSED THAT THE PENTECOSTALS HAVE RECEIVED DIVINE INSPIRATION TO LEAVE THE USSR, AND THAT THE EMIGRATION IS NOT POLITICAL BUT RELIGIOUS. HE NOTED THAT IN THE POST-WAR YEARS, THE PENTE- COSTALS HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR GUIDANCE TO EMIGRATE TO SIBERIA, AND THAT THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES DID LEAVE EUROPEAN RUSSIA FOR KRASNOYARSKIY KRAY AND THE PRIMORSKIY KRAY.

2. VLADIMIR VASIL'YEV, A PENTECOSTAL FROM LATVIA, VISITED THE EMBASSY ON CONSULAR BUSINESS ON JULY 3. ON HIS ARRIVAL AT EMBASSY, HE WAS ACCOSTED BY FOUR SOVIET MILITIA, INCLUDING MVD MAJOR. AFTER 15 MINUTE DISCUSSION BETWEEN CONSOFFS AND SOVIET OFFICERS, VASIL'YEV WAS ALLOWED TO ENTER EMBASSY. ON EXITING BUILDING WITH VASIL'YEV, CONSOFF HAD
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BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH MVD MAJOR, WHO ASKED "HAVE YOU ANY NEWS FOR US?" WHEN CONSOFF RAISED QUESTION OF VASHCHENKO'S SON, SOVIET OFFICER SHRUGGED AND SAID: "HE HAS GONE HOME" (ON POEKHAL DOMOI).

3. EMBASSY HAS REMINDED VASHCHENKO THAT THEY HAVE MADE THEIR POINT REGARDING THE LACK OF FREEDOM OF

RELIGION IN THE USSR, BUT NOW THE LONGER THEY STAY
THE WORSE THE SITUATION WILL BE. CONSOFFS HAVE ALSO
RAISED THE PROBLEM OF THE OTHER TWELVE VASHCHENKO
CHILDREN. THEY REPLIED THAT THEIR ELDER DAUGHTER IS
CARING FOR THEM SO THAT THEY HAVE NO REASON FOR
CONCERN REGARDING THEIR WELFARE. PENTECOSTALS HAVE
ASKED THAT SOMEONE IN AUTHORITY APPROACH THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REGARDING THEIR SON. MRS.
VASHCHENKO HAS REPEATEDLY ASKED CONSOFF WHEN HE WILL
RECEIVE WORD FROM THE MINISTRY. AS OF 1800 JULY 3,
ALL EXPECT A MIRACLE TO TAKE PLACE AND THAT PHARAOH'S
HEART WILL BE SOFTENED. TOON

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